

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections that are contained in the Office Action of September 14, 2007 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,011,457 to Takatani et al. (Takatani) in view of U.S. patent 5,389,034 to Rumbach (Rumbach) and in further view of U.S. patent 4,800,997 to Ozeki et al. (Ozeki). Further, claims 22 and 31 were rejected as being unpatentable over Takatani in view of U.S. patent 5,487,459 to Farmont (Farmont). Claims 27-30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Takatani in view of Farmont and Ozeki, further. However, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention clearly defines over the prior art that has been cited by the Examiner. This is particularly true in view of the above amendments.

### **Independent Claim 12**

In rejecting claim 12, the Examiner acknowledged that Takatani fails to disclose an adjustable coin feeding member. However, the Examiner cited Ozeki, referring to Figs. 1 and 2, and column 2, lines 27-32 and 61-66, as having a coin feeding member 24 that has a position relative to the coin passage 4 that is simultaneously adjustable in both longitudinal and lateral directions of the coin passage in accordance with the diameter of the coins.

By the above amendments, independent claim 12 has been amended to recite that the positions of the coin feeding member and the stopping member relative to the coin passage are adjustable in horizontally longitudinal and lateral directions of the coin passage in accordance with the diameter of the coins, with the coin feeding member and the stopping member positioned substantially on a center line of the coin passage. That both the coin feeding member and the stopping member are so adjustable and positioned on the center line of the coin passage is clear from the original specification and drawings. Note Fig. 2; Fig. 5 (illustrating the center line along with coin feeding rollers 4 are positioned); Fig. 7b; and the description in the specification for example at page 19, lines 13-17 and lines 26-30. See also Figs. 8b, 11b and

12b. It is noted that a brief amendment to the specification has been made for the sake of clear literal support for the claim amendment.

As the Examiner notes, Ozeki has a guiding wheel 24. However, as described at the bottom of column 2, beginning at line 64, the guiding wheel 24 is moved slightly upwardly as seen in Fig. 1. The coin passageway 4, which is the space in between the sliding and pivotal rails 5 and 6, is widened for larger diameter coins. Ozeki does not disclose having both the coin feeding member and a stopping member adjustable in horizontally longitudinal and lateral direction of the coin passage in accordance with a diameter of the coins, with the coin feeding member and the stopping member positioned substantially on the center line of the coin passage. There is no structure disclosed by Ozeki capable of such operation.

#### **Independent Claim 22**

Independent claim 22 has been amended above to emphasize the fact that in the present invention, the coin presser mechanism, which downwardly presses the upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in the coin stacking section, while conveyed coins are sequentially stacked therein, presses only by dead weight of the coin pressure mechanism itself.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Takatani does not disclose a coin presser mechanism pressing an upper surface of an uppermost stacked coin downwardly by dead weight. However, the Examiner cited Farmont as teaching this feature, citing Fig.1 and column 3, lines 38-56.

Farmont is directed to an apparatus for the collection and issuance of round parking cards. Parking cards 2 are issued from a stack. However, there is no weight on the stack other than gravity. Noting column 3, lines 51-53, "owing to their dead weight, the parking cards 2 may then be stacked, lying one upon the other, in the constricted part 5." Thus other than the weight of the cards themselves, there is no other weight applied to the cards in Farmont.

The above amendment makes it clear that in the present invention the coin presser mechanism always downwardly presses, only by dead weight of the coin presser mechanism, the upper surface of the uppermost one of the coins stacked in the stacking section while the conveyed coins are sequentially stacked therein. In Farmont, there is no coin presser mechanism.

There is only the dead weight of the coins themselves. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner cannot consider the coins themselves as a coin presser mechanism given the language of claim 22 (either previously or as amended above). The above amendment clarifies the coin presser mechanism, as part of the apparatus, for pressing on the coins, which coins are not, as such, a part of the apparatus, but rather what the apparatus works on. Thus, none of the references cited by the Examiner has any such mechanism or employs the weight of any such mechanism to the sequentially stacked coins.

### Conclusion

From the above it is respectfully submitted to be clear that both independent claims 12 and 22 patentably distinguish over all of the references that have been cited by the Examiner. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

Further, specific discussion of the further limitations of the dependent claims is not deemed necessary at this point in view of the clear distinctions that are present in the independent claims. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of the allowable subject matter. It is not believed necessary to incorporate such allowed subject matter into the independent claims in view of the above, however.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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